



# Capitol Report

News & Updates from Your State Capitol  
By Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels

www.sos.arkansas.gov

Volume 2 Issue 3

Fall 2004

## Got Voice? Use it on Nov. 2!

Before you head to the polls for the General Election, take a moment to make sure you have all the information you need to make the process as quick and simple as possible. Secretary of State Charlie Daniels offers the following reminders of voter requirements and off-site voting alternatives.

### I.D. Requirements

You will be asked to show your I.D. when you vote. First-time voters who did not provide a copy of photo identification with their mail-in registration will be required to show I.D. at the polls. Without identification, these voters will be asked to vote a provisional ballot. Accepted forms are a current and valid photo I.D. (such as a driver's license), copy of a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck or other government document that shows your name and address.

Provisional ballots will be reviewed for eligibility after the election, and you will be notified about whether or not your

vote was counted.

Don't forget to bring your I.D. to the polls!

### Early Voting

Want to avoid lines at the polls on Election Day? Choose a convenient time to vote that fits YOUR schedule! Early voting begins Oct. 18, and the Secretary of State's office encourages Arkansans to "Take a Vote Break" by voting early during the 15 days preceding the primary election.

"It just takes a few minutes to run in and cast your ballot, thanks to early voting," Daniels said. "Take a little time at lunch or right after work to ensure you make your voice heard."

In most counties, early voting takes place in the county clerk's office, although several counties do offer early voting at other sites. Check the local newspaper or contact the local county clerk for specific locations.

(See GOT VOICE? Cont. on Page 2)

## New Partnerships Target Young Voters

Encouraging youth to get involved in the election process has been a priority for Secretary of State Charlie Daniels. To further energize young voters, the office has now joined forces with several non-partisan groups in their latest voter outreach programs.

### Freedom's Answer

The Secretary of State's office and Freedom's Answer, a national, non-partisan program created in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, are joining together to show young Americans what a difference they can make through their participation in the election process. Several joint activities to motivate the

state's young citizens include: enlisting students as poll workers, collecting vote pledges from friends and family, providing transportation to the polls on Election Day and encouraging service in the Secretary of State's ELECT Intern program, which engages student leaders in high schools and colleges across the state.

### ELECT Program

Started this year, the ELECT program is a statewide voter education initiative designed to increase voter participation. This comprehensive program includes the following key components:

(See YOUNG VOTER Cont. on Page 2)



*As we come to the end of this political season, we stand ready to celebrate one of our most precious freedoms: the right to vote on Election Day. It's a privilege countless Americans have died to protect and citizens in other lands fight to achieve. It is also a responsibility that too many choose to neglect.*

*But I assure you, every vote is important. As an example, Missouri recorded more than 50 municipal races in 1993 that resulted in a tie. Even a small number of voters can influence the whole nation, as we experienced in the 2000 presidential election; just 537 votes — out of more than 105 million cast — decided the outcome.*

*It's easier than ever to make your voice count through early voting, which is now underway. Early voting sites are open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturdays through Oct. 30. Citizens who are unable to visit the polls in person can also vote absentee, completing the entire process by mail.*

(Continued on Page 2)

501-682-1010



**YOUNG VOTER (Cont. from front page)**

National Student/Parent Mock Election and Kids Voting Month; the [www.wannabeheard.org](http://www.wannabeheard.org) marketing campaign and the Arkansas Young Voter's Project. These components involve students in civic education activities from kindergarten through college. High school and college internships are available for students around the state to conduct a variety of civic activities. For more information contact the Secretary of State's office.

**Voter Outreach**

Working in partnership with the *Arkansas Times* and voter advocacy groups, volunteers from these organizations and the Secretary of State's office set up booths at various central Arkansas clubs each Thursday, Friday and Saturday night in September to register voters. This project, known as the Arkansas Young Voter's Project, targeted the 18-25 year old demographic by encouraging them to register and to go vote. Part of the campaign included a stop by "Rock the Vote," which registered more than 600 students at a rally in Conway.

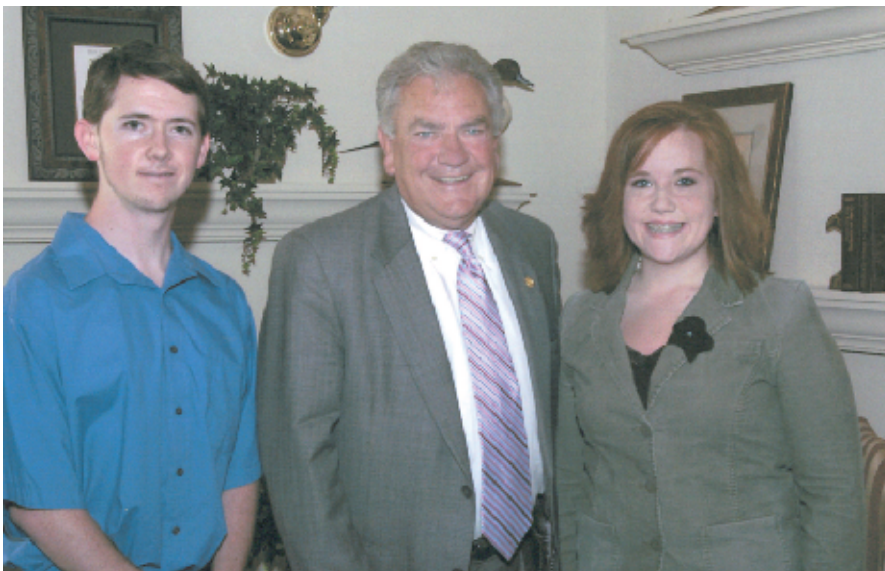
**(Continued from front page)**

*Of course, polling sites also will be open on Election Day, Nov. 2, from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Voters who are unsure where to vote should contact their county clerk now for help. Don't wait until Election Day to find out.*

*I am proud that 80 percent of eligible adults are registered to vote in Arkansas. However, only half of that number turn out to vote, and even less among those under age 25. No matter what your political views are, the most important choice you'll make is to express your opinion at the polls. Let me remind you that your vote — your single vote — will make a difference.*

**Do You Need A Speaker?**

If you would like someone from the Secretary of State's office to speak to your organization, please call 501-682-1010. Presentations are available including such diverse topics as the functions of the Secretary of State's office, current voter services, a history of the Capitol Building or Business and Commercial Services Division.



Secretary of State Charlie Daniels (center) recently partnered with Freedom's Answer, a national program to empower young voters. Representing the group are Arkansas student leaders Caleb Bahr, a freshman at Henderson State University, and Micah Woods, a junior at Magnet Cove High School.

**GOT VOICE? (Cont. from front page)**

The process for early voting is similar to voting on Election Day. There are no additional forms to submit. Under Arkansas law, early voting shall be available between the hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday. Off-site early voting may be held any of these days and times.

**Absentee Voting**

For voters who find it difficult to get to the polls on Election Day or during early voting, there is a simple and convenient alternative — absentee voting.

To vote absentee, voters must be unavoidably absent from their polling site on Election Day (the law does not require a reason to be stated), or be unable to attend the polling site due to illness or physical disability. This is an especially good option for voters such as college students, traveling workers, nursing home residents and military personnel on temporary duty. Applying for an absentee ballot is simple to do in person, by mail or by fax; just call the county clerk to request the application or visit the office in person. The completed absentee ballot must be returned to your county clerk.

Deadlines for returning absentee ballots for the November 2 General Election are as follows:

- Applications delivered by mail or fax are due by Oct. 26.
- Applications delivered in person by the voter or by designated bearer (a family member or friend) are due by the close of business on Monday, Nov. 1.
- Applications delivered by an authorized agent (such as a hospital administrator) are due by 1:30 p.m. on November 2.
- Voters can return their completed ballot to the county clerk by close of business Nov. 1. If they choose to mail their ballot or send by designated bearer or authorized agent, the county clerk must receive it by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day. Ballots may not be faxed.

For more voter information, contact your county clerk or the Secretary of State's voter assistance line, 1-800-482-1127.

**Let Us Know**

If you receive duplicate issues or need to update your mailing address, please let us know with an e-mail to [arsos@sosmail.state.ar.us](mailto:arsos@sosmail.state.ar.us) or call (501) 682-3470



## Student/Parent Mock Election Slated for Oct. 28

More than 35,000 Arkansans will take part in the nation's largest voter education project, the National Student/Parent Mock Election. Hosted locally by Secretary of State Charlie Daniels, the program strives to engage students in the voting process.

Participants will not only cast their votes for presidential and district candidates, but they'll also weigh in on topical issues on Mock Election Day, October 28. Students, parents and teachers will also be involved in a range of



voter education projects such as registering new voters, collecting pledges to vote and writing an essay on the importance of voting. The Secretary of State's web log — or “blog” — will also involve students in discussing current issues.

The National Student/Parent Mock Election has involved more than 10 million participants in all 50 states and beyond since 1996. To get involved in Arkansas's program, contact Crystal Shell, (501) 682-3470 or [ceshell@sosmail.state.ar.us](mailto:ceshell@sosmail.state.ar.us).

---

## Absentee Ballots Provided To Overseas Voters

Challenges to third-party candidate Ralph Nader's appearance on the presidential ballot caused a court ordered delay on the printing of standard absentee ballots for overseas Arkansas voters. On the October 8 deadline, only one-third of the counties in Arkansas reported having printed absentee ballots available to be sent out.

Secretary of State Daniels met with members of the Arkansas National Guard to discuss fail-safe measures for ensuring that overseas citizens have the opportunity to vote. As a result, Daniels' office instructed those counties without printed ballots to mail a federal write-in absentee ballot to each overseas voter who had applied to vote in the November 2 election. The federal write-in absentee ballot provides overseas voters the opportunity to write-in candidates of their choice

for federal, state and local races.

The problem with write-in absentee ballots is that military personnel stationed overseas may not know who the candidates are in those state and local races. However, candidate lists, specific to each county, are available on the web for all overseas voters, including more than 3,000 National Guardsmen stationed in Iraq, and those who receive the federal write-in absentee can use the list as a resource when marking the ballot. County clerks were instructed to send copies of the lists along with the write-in absentees.

To view the information available to overseas voters, visit the Secretary of State's military voting web page at [www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov) and click on “Elections” then select “Voting-Military.”

---

## Capitol Café Unveils New Look

A major facelift has brought a “bistro” atmosphere to the Capitol Cafeteria. Changes from seating to the menu to new staff uniforms create a more inviting place to eat breakfast and lunch.

Patrons are now greeted by a large lion-head fountain that has already become popular as a wishing well. Two frosted glass panels etched with images of the Arkansas State Capitol dome appear behind the fountain separating the food line from the seating area.

New lighting and ceiling tiles have been added and the wainscoting touched up. The walls have been repainted and neatly decorated with ornate mirrors and photographs of the State Capitol and its grounds.

The cafeteria now boasts not only new furniture consisting of comfortable booth seating but also new china, glassware, silverware and trays. A small room set off from the main area is now a Board Room that can be reserved for meetings that are catered by the cafeteria staff. Make reservations now for your next meeting by contacting Jonathan Runnells at 682-3042.

A recent survey conducted by the Secretary of State's office about the menu has helped the cafeteria staff to better serve its clients meals that are the most popular. Two to three main courses are served every day with an array of vegetables to match. Sandwiches, soups and salads are also a daily treat in the cafeteria.

The Capitol Cafeteria is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Breakfast is served until 10 a.m. Please come and try out the new menu and surroundings!





## Capitol Briefing

### Franchise Tax Reminder

As part of its funding plan for improvements in the state education system, the Arkansas Legislature passed Act 94 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003, codified as 26-54-104. This law increases the state's franchise tax with the new rates applicable to the 2004 tax year and due May 1, 2005. To view the new rate schedule or to file online, log onto [www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov), select "Business/Commercial Services" and click on "Franchise Tax."

### Davis Named IT Director

Cecil Davis recently joined the Secretary of State's staff as director of information technology. He will oversee the administration's computer hardware and software systems.



A native of Hot Springs, Davis served for five years as a system coordination analyst at the Department of Arkansas Heritage. He is also a 13-year veteran of the Air Force.

### Restorations Continue

Work continues around the State Capitol grounds under a grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Commission grant. Work on the front promenade is scheduled for completion Nov. 1. Restorations are almost completed on the Monument to Confederate Women, the Monument to Confederate Soldiers and the War of 1812 Memorial.

Inside the Capitol, changes include repainting and new lighting on the third and fourth floors. Public areas on the first floor have also had new lighting installed.

### Subscribe to *Arkansas, Inc.*

The Secretary of State has created a newsletter for businesses in the state, *Arkansas, Inc.* It is designed to keep Arkansas businesses and corporations abreast of the latest developments in corporate filings, franchise tax, Universal Commercial Code and other services. If you wish to receive future issues of *Arkansas, Inc.* electronically, simply e-mail [arsos@sosmail.state.ar.us](mailto:arsos@sosmail.state.ar.us) with the subject line "Subscribe BCS" and provide a contact name and number for your business.



## Mark Your Calendars — Capitol Holidays to Light Up December 4

The holidays are fast approaching and plans to make the seasonal festivities enjoyable for the whole family are already in the making.

The annual holiday lighting ceremony on December 4, immediately following the Big Jingle Jubilee Holiday Parade, officially starts the state's holiday season. Once again the Capitol will be ablaze with thousands of lights outlining the building. Special holiday activities will take place on the front lawn of the Capitol prior to the parade.

Music will fill the halls of the Capitol during the weeks of December 6 through December 17. Schools and other groups from all over the state participate in the traditional holiday performances in the Capitol rotunda each weekday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The George Jernigan Tree, a live cedar located on the front lawn of the Capitol, will once again serve as the state's official tree and will be decorated with hundreds of lights. Spectacular interior decorations will include a winter wonderland scene perfect for those family photos and the return of the county landmark ornaments, placed on the rotunda tree.

Make plans now to visit the Arkansas State Capitol during the holiday season to experience a true Arkansas holiday tradition. A schedule of events will be posted in November online at [www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov).



### MLK Youth Assembly

Kimberly Gardner, an election coordinator with the Secretary of State, addressed more than 800 participants at the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Assembly in July. Attendees participated in a mock election, casting their votes for president, as well as issues ranging from the war in Iraq to school consolidation. Gardner joined Susan Inman, director of the Pulaski County Election Commission, to provide instructions and voting equipment for the exercise.



## Traveler's Guide to Arkansas Debuts Online

In an ongoing effort to present the State Capitol and its resources as an educational tool, Secretary of State Charlie Daniels introduces a new web page designed especially for students. The Traveler's Guide to Arkansas at [www.soskids.arkansas.gov](http://www.soskids.arkansas.gov) debuted online October 1.

The new web site provides teachers with activities that correspond with Arkansas's State Educational Standards and forms that make it easier to request information from the Secretary of State's office. The

site also features demographic and historical information, as well as games and activities that further their knowledge of Arkansas.



"The Internet is the education tool of the 21st Century", states Daniels. "By providing students and teachers this much needed information on a web page we are saving them time and effort allowing them to learn all they can about Arkansas and its government."



Work is nearing completion on the grand promenade leading from Woodlane Avenue to the steps of the State Capitol. Secretary of State Charlie Daniels (photo at right, second from left) visits with crew members who have been replacing the sidewalk, re-designing the handicap accessible ramp and adding lighted pillars at the main entrance.



## General Election Ballot Issues

In addition to races for President and other local contests, voters will decide on five other issues on the ballot. Those ballot measures are:

- Proposed Constitutional Amendment 1 — An amendment extending the term limits for members of the Arkansas House of Representatives from three two-year terms to six two-year terms and for members of the Arkansas Senate from two four-year terms to three four-year terms.
- Proposed Constitutional Amendment 2 — An amendment to allow the General Assembly to approve the issuance of general obligation bonds for any economic development project that plans to invest more than \$500

million in capital expenditures and to hire more than 500 new employees.

- Proposed Constitutional Amendment 3 — An amendment to the Arkansas Constitution that would define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.
- Referred Question 1 — To increase the statewide uniform rate of ad valorem property tax for maintenance and operation of schools by three mills, from 25 mills to 28 mills.

To see the full text of the 2004 ballot measures, visit the Secretary of State's website, [www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov) and click on "Elections," then "2004 Ballot Measures."

## Capitol Reflections: Making a Mark on History

Since the dawn of written communications, humans have frequently — and literally — made their mark on public spaces and surfaces. Sometimes this graffiti is political or religious, while many other marks serve as a simple record of someone's presence at a particular time. Excavated Greek and Roman ruins yield signs of hastily scratched names and messages, the ancestors of an irreverent tradition, which continues to the present day.

The Arkansas Capitol, like other public buildings, has not escaped the mark of graffiti. Respect or affection for the structure, combined with constant vigilance by Capitol Police and maintenance staff, keeps the Capitol mainly free of vandalism; marks are erased, wood is sanded and re-varnished, engravings are filled and painted over. Seemingly, such graffiti is therefore permanently effaced. Some marks, however, have recently made a reappearance.

During a re-painting project in August, painters Debbie Armack and Marty D. Kent, employed by McCormick & Co. Painting Contractors, were preparing surfaces in the fourth-floor northwest tower room. While scraping layers of loose paint from the walls, Armack and Kent encountered several names and salutations scratched into the wall plaster. Most were illegible, but one was partially deciphered.

The Capitol does not keep permanent records of its visitors, but this much is known: on June 27, 1933, one Beth Peterson, address unknown, left a tangible record of her visit to the Capitol. We know nothing about her, what brought her to the Capitol or what she thought of what she saw here. All that is certain is that Ms. Peterson left her mark on the seat of government. If she was a teenager in 1933, Ms. Peterson by now would be somewhere between 80 and 90 years old; we wish her well and hope that she, like the Capitol, enjoys a healthy and vital maturity.



10-04

### Charlie Daniels

Secretary of State  
Room 256 State Capitol  
Little Rock, AR 72201-1094  
[www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov)  
501-682-1010

Presort Standard  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
Permit No. 2855

